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**For Immediate Release:**

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## STATE ROUTE 368 IN ELBERT COUNTY CLOSED TO REPLACE BRIDGE OVER PICKENS CREEK

ELBERTON, Ga. – The Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) is advising motorists in Elbert County of a detour off State Route (SR) 368, scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2016, to accommodate work on the replacement of the bridge over Pickens Creek.

SR 368 will be closed for 180 days and eastbound traffic will be detoured off the highway at Montevideo Road onto South Carolina 184, left on SC 81, north to Starr in SC where it will be directed left on SC 181, onto GA 181 and GA 77 Spur. Traffic will then go approximately seven miles on GA 77 South and back to Georgia 368.

The westbound lanes of SR 368 will be closed at Ruckersville Road and traffic will be redirected onto SR 77 north onto SR 77 Spur and go approximately seven miles to GA 181, crossing into Starr, SC, and continuing on SC 181, right on SC 184 to GA 184, and back to SR 368.

The Georgia DOT urges motorists in the area to watch out for the message boards at the closing points on SR 368 and signs along the detour route in Georgia and South Carolina. “We certainly hope that all motorists watch out for these detour signs and be extra cautious while approaching this work zone,” said Brent Cook, district engineer at the Georgia DOT office in Gainesville.

The existing bridge was built in 1941. The bridge consisted of five spans of steel beams on timber caps and timber piles. This bridge was designed using a truck configuration that weighs less than the current state legal truck weights. This structure had a temporary repair. Without this repair the bridge would require posting. The overall condition of this bridge was classified by Georgia DOT inspectors as poor. The deck was in poor condition with advanced concrete cracking and deterioration. The superstructure was in poor condition due to advanced section loss in the steel beams. The substructure was also in poor condition with the advanced deterioration of the timber elements. The overall condition of structural integrity of the old bridge prompted a recommendation that it be replaced rather than repaired.

Work on replacing the bridge on SR 368 over Pickens Creek began early November 2015. The entire project is scheduled to be completed by mid-October 2016, at a construction cost of \$1,205,829.

Georgia DOT urges travelers to call 511 for updated information about this or any other construction project on interstates and state routes. Georgia 511 is a free phone service that provides real-time traffic and travel information statewide, such as traffic conditions, incidents, lane closures, and delays due to inclement weather. Callers also can transfer to operators to request assistance or report incidents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. More information is available at [www.511ga.org](http://www.511ga.org). Georgia DOT partners with sponsors for assistance in funding 511, thereby preserving tax dollars and helping sustain critical services. For more information on Georgia DOT, please visit [www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov) or subscribe to our Press Release [RSS feed](#). You also may like us on [Facebook](#) (<https://www.facebook.com/GDOTNE>) and follow us on [Twitter](#) (<https://twitter.com/GDOTNE>).

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*DriveAlert ArriveAlive* campaign calls attention to an alarming increase in roadway fatalities across Georgia, many resulting from preventable crashes and distracted driving. **DriveAlert ArriveAlive** implores motorists to buckle up; stay off the phone and no texting; and drive alert. Visit [www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/DAAA](http://www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/DAAA). #ArriveAliveGA

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